MORTON GROVE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

Morton Grove Public Library

Winter Reading Challenge

December 15—January 31

birth-grade 8

Read and earn prizes this winter! Stop by the Youth Services Desk starting December 15 to register, pick up your log, and get reading. R

Storytimes and More . . .

Monday Morning Playgroup
Birth to age 5 with a parent/caregiver
Mondays, 9:30–11 am
Drop in for some open-ended play and meet new friends at our weekly playgroup.

Bedtime Stories & More
Birth to age 5 with a parent/caregiver
Mondays, December 2 and January 6, 6:30–7 pm
Spend time winding down for bed with a few stories and songs.

Listen Up!
Birth to age 5 with a parent/caregiver
Tuesdays, 10–10:45 am or 11:15 am-12 pm
(no class December 24 and 31)
Listen to stories, sing songs, and more at this fun all-ages storytime!

Toddler Time
Ages 18–36 months
Wednesdays, December 4–18 and January 8 and 15
10–10:45 am
Get your little one acquainted with the Library at this toddler-riffic storytime. To attend, children must be between 18 and 36 months old at the time of the class.

Preschool Storytime
Ages 3–5 with a parent/caregiver
Thursdays, December 5–19 and January 2–16
10–10:45 am
Stories, songs, and activities that are perfect for the school-ready child.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

R = Registration is required

REGISTRATION begins November 15 for December events and December 15 for January events unless otherwise noted.

Wee Read
Ages 0–24 months with a parent/caregiver
Fridays, 9:30–10:15 am or 11–11:45 am
(no class December 27 and January 3)
Stories and songs for our littlest listeners. Please bring a tummy time mat or blanket for the baby. Older siblings welcome.

Family Storytime
Birth to age 5 with a parent/caregiver
Saturdays, December 7 and January 11, 10–10:45 am
Bring the whole family to this storytime filled with books, songs, and fun.

Build-a-Reader Storytime
Ages 2-5 with a parent/caregiver
Sunday, December 8, 3–3:45 pm
Join us for a fun storytime featuring our transportation-themed DUPLO Read & Build set. Siblings are welcome but build and craft supplies are limited to registrants. **R**

Mathematics Circus
Ages 3–5 with a parent/caregiver
Sundays, December 22 and January 26, 2–3 pm
Come one, come all to a math-tacular spectacular! We'll leap into mathematics with games, stories, and creative play that add up to a circus full of fun. **R**

Family Dance Party
All Ages
Friday, December 27, 10–11 am
Get up and dance to some family-friendly tunes! Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

New Year's Eve Storytime
Birth to Age 5 with a parent/caregiver
Tuesday, December 31, 10–10:30 am
Enjoy a New Year's Eve-themed storytime with your family.

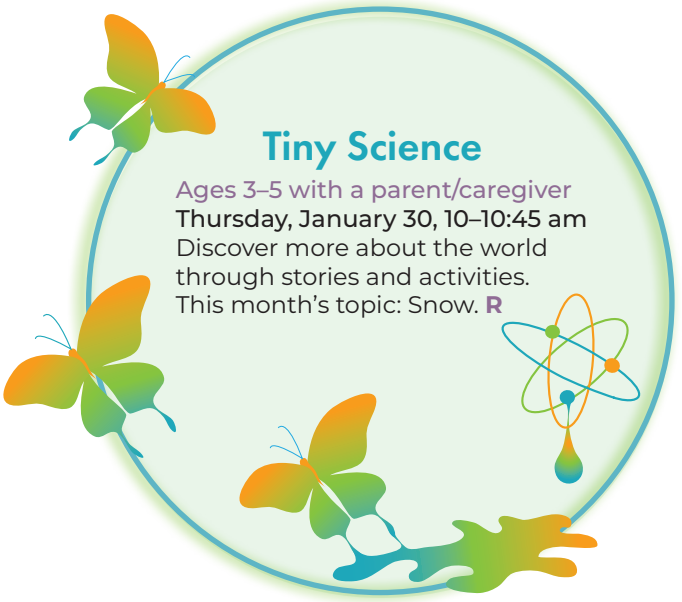
Tots Dealing with Big Feelings Storytime
Ages 3-5 with a parent/caregiver
Friday, January 3, 10–10:45 am
Learn about managing feelings through stories, songs, and activities. Leave with strategies for handling emotions that can be overwhelming. This session's theme: Understanding Personal Space and Consent. **R**

Ready, Set, Alphabet!
Ages 2–5 with a parent/caregiver
Saturday, January 18, 10–10:45 am
Drop in and build early literacy skills with fun alphabet activities. Be prepared to get messy!

Worldwide Storytime: Lunar New Year
Ages 3–7
Wednesday, January 22, 10–11 am
Language Labs introduces Chinese language and culture through stories, songs, and activities that celebrate the Lunar New Year. **R**

Puppet Craft Storytime
Ages 3–5 with a parent/caregiver
Thursday, January 23, 10–10:45
A special puppet storytime for preschoolers. We'll each make a simple puppet craft, then use them to act out our stories and songs. **R**

Mini Music Makers
Ages 2–5 with a parent/caregiver
Wednesday, January 29, 10–10:45 am
Feel the rhythm; hear the rhyme. It's Mini Music Maker time! **R**


Tiny Science
Ages 3–5 with a parent/caregiver
Thursday, January 30, 10–10:45 am
Discover more about the world through stories and activities. This month's topic: Snow. R

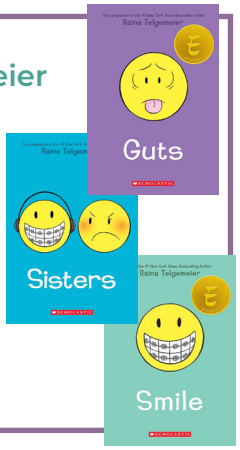
REGISTRATION begins November 15 for December events and December 15 for January events unless otherwise noted.

Middle School Hangout
Grades 5–8
Wednesday, December 4, 4–5 pm
De-stress and hang out with other middle schoolers! We'll provide snacks, activities, and games to get you through the school week.

Anime Club
Grades 6–8
Thursdays, December 5 and January 9, 6–7 pm
A fun-filled hour of anime appreciation. We'll watch and talk about your favorite shows, draw, and enjoy all things anime.

The Magic of Raina Telgemeier (Online)
All Ages
Tuesday, December 10, 7–8 pm
Author Raina Telgemeier shares insights into her creative process and the power of graphic novels.

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration between public libraries offering high-quality events. **R**



Crafty Saturday
All Ages
Saturdays, December 14 and January 11, 9:30 am–4:30 pm
Drop in the Youth Services Department to make a seasonal craft while supplies last.

LEGO Builders
Grades K–8
Mondays, December 16 and January 20, 6:30–7:30 pm
Build something amazing with the Library's massive LEGO collection. Start with one of our monthly challenges and then let your imagination guide you in a free build.

Family Engineering Night
All Ages
Thursdays, 7–8 pm
December 19: Parachutes
January 23: Tower Build Challenge
Once a month, we turn a STEM idea into an engineering project. Projects are intended for school-aged kids and above, though younger children are welcome to participate with a grown-up. **R**

Winter Break Movies

All Ages - Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

Monday, December 23
3 pm
Kung Fu Panda 4
(2024, PG, 1 hr 34 min)

Monday, December 30
3 pm
Inside Out 2
(2024, PG, 1 hr 36 min)

Masterson Magic

Family
Friday, December 27
2–3 pm
Illusionist Sean Masterson will entertain the entire family with thrilling, original sleight-of-hand magic.

Snowman Craft Drop-in
Ages 3-10
Saturday, December 28, 10–10:45 am
Create your own snowman while supplies last. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

Make a New Year's Crown
All Ages
Tuesday, December 31, 9:30 am–4:30 pm
Stop by the Youth Services department to make a fabulous New Year's crown (while supplies last).

LitLoot Middle School

Grades 6–8

January 1–14

LitLoot is a free literary subscription box filled with a custom selected library book and other goodies. To subscribe to January's box, register between January 1 and 14. We'll contact you when boxes are ready for pickup at the end of the month. Subscriptions are limited, so register early. **R**

Rock Paper Scissors Tournament

Grades 1-8

Thursday, January 2

6:15–7:30 pm

Students in grades 1 through 8 compete by grade level. Winners at each grade level go on to compete in the final round to crown this year's Rock Paper Scissors Champion! Check-in for competitors begins at 6:15 pm. Competition starts promptly at 6:30 pm. Cookies provided. **R**

Youth Writing Club

Grades 4–6

Tuesday, January 7, 4:30–5:15 pm

If you love to write, come join us for word games, writing prompts, and more. **R**

Mad Math Society

Grades 3–6

Wednesday, January 8, 4:30–5:30 pm

We are out to prove that math is secretly awesome with brain-bending fun and activities. This month, we're investigating angles. **R**

Goofball Science Club

Grades 5–8

Tuesday, January 14, 4–5 pm

Join us for a middle school hangout where we do the fun parts of science experiments. This month, we're experimenting with pH indicators **R**

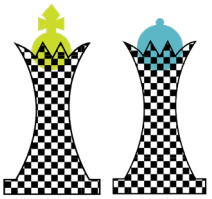
Math Brigade

Grades K–2

Wednesday , January 15, 4:30–5:30 pm

Discover math skills through active learning and work as a team to build something amazing. This month, we're investigating shapes. **R**

Chess Academy



Grades 1–8

Thursday, January 16, 7–8 pm

Learn how to play chess with chess master Chris Christmas. All skill levels are welcome.

Crosstown Exotics Animal Show

Family

Monday, January 20, 2–3 pm

Join us for an interactive, entertaining and educational reptile, amphibian, and bug show. Enjoy memorable encounters with cold blooded ambassadors including a Burmese python!

Drama Club

Grades 1–8

Tuesday, January 21, 7–8 pm

Homeschool Drama Club

Grades 1–8

Wednesday, January 29, 2–3 pm

Bring out your inner drama queen or king and get creative with acting, improv, and theater games. **R**

Sound It Out to the Pup

PreK-Grade 4

Tuesday, January 28, 6:30–7:30 pm

A trained therapy dog patiently listens to your child sound out words and practice reading from a word list or book of their choice. To register for a 15-minute session, visit the Youth Services Desk or call 847-965-4220 x2. **R**

Mini Masterpieces

Grades 1–5

Wednesday, January 29, 4:30–5:30 pm

Create like the great artists! We will look at the artwork of well-known artists and then use them as inspiration to create our own works of art. This session's artist: Helen Frankenthaler. **R**

DIY Family Game Night

All Ages

Thursday, January 30, 7–8 pm

Join us for an evening of zany homemade games; some assembly required! Games are geared toward school-aged kids and above, through younger children are welcome to participate with a grown-up.

KIDS

THE MAGICIAN'S FOLLY
An Interactive Story Experience
All Ages
December 21–January 5
Stage magician Gary Whodini could never catch a break. Instead of stardom, he was staring down a lifetime doing party tricks for 9-year-olds. However, there was a touch of real magic in the Whodini family. It could change Gary's fortunes forever, but real magic has real consequences.
Follow the mysteries.
Unlock the story.

STEMonade Stand

Stop by the STEMonade Stand located at our Lincoln Avenue entrance for project kits to do at home. Each kit is sealed inside a zip-top bag with instructions and STEM connections. For more information and updates on biweekly projects, visit **mgpl.org/stemonade**. When life gives you lemons, make STEMonade.

TEENS

R = Registration is required

LitLoot

Grades 9–12
December 1–14
LitLoot is a free literary subscription box filled with a custom selected library book and other free goodies. Subscribe to December's box at **mgpl.org/events**. We'll contact you when your box is ready for pickup at the end of the month. Subscriptions are limited, so register early. Library card required. **R**

FINALS

Exam Cram

Grades 9-12
Tuesday, December 17, 6–10 pm
Wednesday, December 18, 6–10 pm
The library will stay open late for students in grade 9-12. There will be extra group study spaces and quiet study spaces available. Pizza, snacks, and beverages will be served.

Super Smash Bros. Tournament

Grades 9-12
Saturday, January 11, 2–3 pm
Super Mario. Pikachu. Sonic. Play as your favorite smash character on the big screen to compete for a prize. **R**

FAFSA Application Help

Grades 9-12
Wednesday, January 15, 7–8 pm
Our local ISAC coordinator will help you create a profile and discuss best practices to fill out your application for college financial aid. **R**

ADULTS

Senior Activity Kits

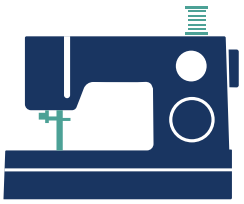
Stay busy and keep your brain active with creative activities and informational materials for seniors. Available on the first of each month at the Info Desk while supplies last.

Adult ESL Literacy Kits

Practice English with monthly ESL Literacy Kits for adults. Each kit may contain vocabulary puzzles, idioms, suggested activities, or a short reading exercise, along with the monthly issue of *Easy English News* newspaper. Suitable for all skill levels. Available on the first of each month at the Info Desk while supplies last.

Sew a Tote Bag

Tuesday, December 3, 6–8 pm
Expert sewer Mike Hall will go over all the basic sewing machine stitches used to construct a tote bag. Prior sewing machine experience is required. Sewing machines and supplies will be provided. **R**



Social Seniors

Join us for a variety of fun activities. Seating is limited, so register early to guarantee your spot. **R**

Bingo

Wednesday, December 4
10–11 am
Socialize as you play. Small prizes will be awarded to those who Bingo!

Arts and Crafts

Wednesdays, 10–11 am
December 11: Snowflake Glass Etching
January 8: Winter Wooden Coasters
Tap into your inner creativity with a fun and easy craft project.

Trivia

Wednesdays, 10–11 am
December 18: Hit Holiday Movies
January 15: Back to the 90s
Test your knowledge of iconic moments in history and pop culture.

Wits Workout

Wednesdays, January 22 , 10–11 am
Maintain and enhance your cognitive function and memory with this interactive event.

Healthy Living

Chair Yoga

Fridays, December 6 and 20, January 10
9:30–10:30 am (In Person)
Led by certified yoga instructor Joan McGee.

Fridays, December 13 and January 24
9:30–10:30 am (Online)
Led by certified yoga instructor Susan Wilkens.

Practice seated poses in one of the gentlest forms of yoga, available online or in person. All experience levels welcome. Wear comfortable clothes. Please use a steady chair without arms (if possible). **R**

Explore Plant-Based Diets

Thursday, January 23, 2–3 pm
Learn the basic components of a healthy plant-based diet as well as what to avoid and tips for success. **R**

In Full Swing

Jazz Orchestra Concert

Sunday, December 8, 2–3 pm
Jazz drummer David Fodor leads the In Full Swing Jazz Orchestra in a celebration of the very best music of the Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Glenn Miller bands. **R**

Board Game Night

Mondays, December 9 and January 13, 7–8:30 pm
Play popular board games, including Ticket to Ride and Codenames. Participants can also bring their own board game to play. **This program is for adults and grade 9 and above.**

Evening Craft for Adults and Teens

Tuesdays, 6–7 pm
December 10: Snowflake Glass Etching
January 7: Winter Wooden Coasters
Tap into your inner creativity with a fun and easy craft project. **R**

ADULTS

R = Registration is required

DNA and Genealogy Research Simplified (Online)

Tuesday, December 10, 7–8 pm
Professional Genealogist Steve Szabados will discuss the differences between DNA testing companies and explain the reasons why you might take different types of DNA tests. **R**

Name That Tune (Online & Phone)

Wednesday, December 11, 10–10:30 am
In this virtual version of Name That Tune, participants listen (over the phone or via Zoom) to snippets of music then guess the name of the song. **R**

Someday is Today (Hybrid)

Thursday, December 12, 11 am–12 pm
Family life educator Molly Hofer discusses how to use the transformative power of goal setting to accomplish things on your bucket list. **R**

Crafting For Charity

Saturdays, December 14 and 28, January 11 and 25
9:30–11:30 am
Create handmade knitted and crocheted crafts for local organizations. Please bring your needles and/or hooks and some acrylic yarn. Seating is limited, so register early. **R**

New Year's Luminaria

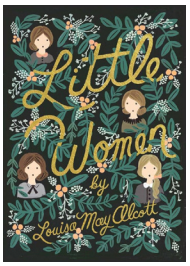
Join us for our fourth year of lighting up the Library and welcoming in the New Year! Starting December 14, stop by the Library and put your good wishes on a paper lantern. Then join us on Wednesday, January 1, from 6-8 pm to view the lanterns safely lit up outside in front of the Library. Cocoa and cookies will be provided (while supplies last).

ESL Games and Gab (Conversation)

Monday, December 16 and January 13, 10–11 am
Practice your English conversation skills while playing games. **R**

Virtual Screening of *Little Women: The Musical* (Online)

Available December 20–22
Watch the 2022 recording of the London Park Theatre premiere of *Little Women: The Musical*. This adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel is a must-see for audiences of all ages. **R**



This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a state-wide collaboration between public libraries offering high-quality events.

Chicago Pizza: Past, Present and Future with Steve Dolinsky

(Online/Library Watch Party)
Thursday, January 9, 7–8 pm
Join James Beard Award-winning Food journalist Steve Dolinsky for a discussion of the history and various styles of pizza in the Chicago area. Pizza samples from local establishments will be served at the Library Watch Party. **R**

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a state-wide collaboration between public libraries offering high-quality events.

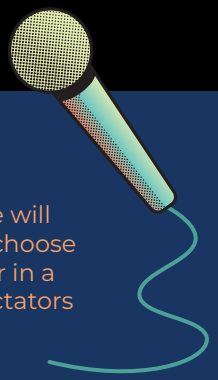
Introduction to Machine Sewing

Tuesday, January 14, 6–8 pm
Sewing expert Mike Hall will go over all the basics of setting up and using a sewing machine. Sewing machines and supplies will be provided. **R**

Job Search Like a Pro: Career Change Resumes (Online)

Thursday, January 16, 7–8 pm
Change the course of your career with Executive Resume Writer Erica Reckamp. Learn how to craft a resume that positions you as a leading candidate. **R**

Karaoke!



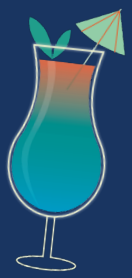
Karaoke at MGPL

Friday, January 17, 1–2 pm

Join us for music and fun! We will provide a variety of songs to choose from. You can perform solo or in a group with your friends. Spectators are welcome.

mgpl after dark

Karaoke & Mocktails

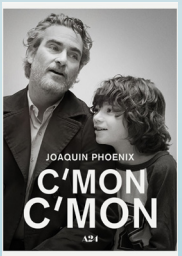


Friday, January 17, 6–7 pm

Join us for a night of music, fun, and delicious mocktails! We will provide a variety of songs to choose from. You can perform solo or in a group with your friends. Spectators are welcome.

INDIE MOVIE NIGHT

C'mon C'mon
Wednesday, December 4
6–8 pm
A radio journalist embarks on a cross-country trip with his energetic nephew to show him life away from Los Angeles. (2021, R, 1 hr 49 min) **R**



The Road Dance
Wednesday, January 8
6–8 pm
A young girl lives in the Outer Hebrides in a small village in the years just before WWI. Her life takes a dramatic change when a terrible tragedy befalls her. (2021, NR, 1 hr 56 min) **R**

TUESDAY MOVIES @ MGPL

Back to Black
Tuesday, December 3
10 am–12 pm

Love the Coopers
Tuesday, December 10
10–11:45 am

Summer of Soul
Tuesday, December 17
10 am–12 pm

The Family Stone
Tuesday, December 31
10–11:45 am

Hard Miles
Tuesday, January 7
10–11:45 am

Twisters
Tuesday, January 14
10 am–12 pm

The Banshees of Inisherin
Tuesday, January 21
10 am–12 pm

Fly Me to the Moon
Tuesday, January 28
10 am–12:15 pm

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

Saturday, January 18, 10 am–12 pm

Refresh your jigsaw puzzle collection by swapping one of your gently used ones for a new-to-you puzzle. Choose one puzzle for every one you bring. Puzzles must be complete, at least 500 pieces, and in the original box. Drop off puzzles at the Info Desk starting on Saturday, January 4.

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Sunday, January 19, 2–4 pm

Teams of up to four can test their skills by racing to complete a 500-piece puzzle. All puzzles are the same, and no one may see the puzzle until the time starts. Have one person from your team register. **R**

Book Talk: Books You Might Have Missed in 2024

Thursday, January 23, 10–11 am

Join us for a roundup of under-the-radar fiction from 2024 that deserves a second look. Bring your library card as books will be available for checkout. **R**

Love and Laughs with Michelle Buteau (Online)

Thursday, January 23, 7–8 pm

Stand-up comedian, actress, and podcast host Michelle Buteau presents a hilarious commentary on life, love, and pop culture. **R**

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a state-wide collaboration between public libraries offering high-quality events.

Exploring Spices (Online)
Spice: Golden Milk Chai Spice

Sunday, January 26, 2–3 pm
(pickup starts January 2)

Explore spices from around the world in this flavorful bi-monthly event. Pick up the spice of the month and then discover the taste by making any dish of your choice. At the end of the month, we will meet over Zoom to share results and experiences. **R**

Post-Election Update with WGTV Political Analyst Paul Lisnek (Online)

Tuesday, January 28, 7–8 pm

WGN political analyst Paul Lisnek will speak about the election results and share insights about the upcoming four years. This program is presented in partnership with The League of Women Voters and other area libraries. **R**

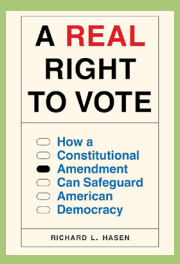
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BOOK PICKS

Visit **mgpl.org/civics** for staff-curated lists of resources related to a variety of topics. Not sure where to begin? We have selected a few titles to help you get started.

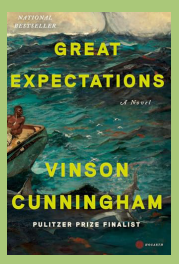
Banned Books & Censorship

That Librarian
by Amanda Jones

Voting & Elections

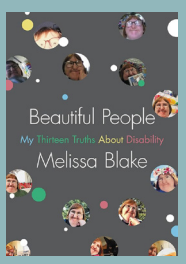


A Real Right to Vote
by Richard Hasen



Great Expectations
by Vinson Cunningham

Disability Awareness



Beautiful People
by Melissa Blake

Listening Sessions for Older Adults
Wednesday, January 29, 10–11 am (In-Person)
Thursday, January 30, 10–11 am (Online)
Share your views on library programming and services. Let us know how we can better serve you. **R**

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

Using Google Maps on Your Smartphone
Thursday, December 5, 10–11 am
Learn how to navigate your world faster and easier. Bring your smartphone and login info. **R**

Photo App on iPhones
Thursday, January 9, 2–3:30 pm
Learn how to organize and share your photos. **R**

Google Photo App on Android
Thursday, January 16, 2–3:30 pm
Learn how to organize and share your photos. **R**

Introduction to Google Docs and Drive
Wednesday, January 22, 2–3:30 pm
Learn how to create and edit documents that you can store and share in the cloud and access anywhere via the internet. Please bring your Gmail/Google account login information. **R**

MGPL CREATIVE SPACE — CRICUT MACHINE

Morton Grove cardholders ages 14 and up can make an reservation to create Cricut projects, such as paper crafts, vinyl decals, and personalized items. There will be a small cost for materials. For learning resources, project ideas and material costs and to request a reservation go to **mgpl.org/create**.

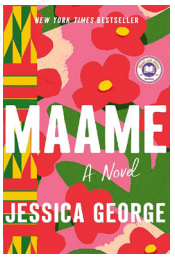
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Readpool: Adult Graphic Novel Discussion Group (Online)

Almost American Girl
by Robin Ha
Monday, December 16, 7–8 pm **R**

Between the Lines

Favorite Books of 2024
Tuesday, December 17
7–8 pm (Online)
Thursday, December 19
10–11 am (In-person)

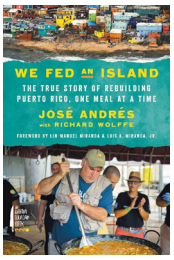


Maame
by Jessica George
Thursday, January 16
10–11 am (In Person)
Tuesday, January 21
7–8 pm (Online)

Between the Lines is held on two different days, either in person or on Zoom. New members are always welcome! **R**

LitLounge

Litera-cheers: Best of 2024
Wednesday, December 11
7:30–9 pm



We Fed an Island
by José Andrés
Wednesday, January 8
7:30–9 pm

Meets monthly at the Skokie Public Library Cosmos Room. **R**

6140 Lincoln Avenue
Morton Grove, IL 60053–2989

Library Hours
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am–9:00 pm
Friday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm
Saturday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm
Sunday, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm

Online
Website: mgpl.org
Events: mgpl.org/events
Catalog: catalog.mgpl.org

Phone
Main: 847-965-4220

Email
Adult & Teen Services: info@mgpl.org
Youth Services: ysinfo@mgpl.org
Check-Out Desk: circinfo@mgpl.org

Social Media

PHOTO AND VIDEO POLICY
Attendance at Library programs constitutes consent to be photographed or videotaped for Library purposes. If you or your child do not wish to be photographed or videotaped, please notify staff.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE
Patrons needing special assistance should call 847-965-4220 or email info@mgpl.org.

CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS
Events are subject to change and may be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Call the Library at 847-965-4220 to confirm scheduled events.

LIBRARY **CLOSINGS**

December 24 and December 25 for Christmas
December 31 closing at 5 pm
January 1 for New Year's Day

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Pam Leffler

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Emily Macejak, President
Joanne Pelletier, Secretary
Carlotta Gonzales, Treasurer
Mark Flores
Mohammed Hussain
Tamara Jost
Laima Puzzo

The Board meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7 pm.

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SPOTLIGHT ON:

CRAFTING for Charity

Shawls Donated to Local Cancer Survivors

Shawls made by Crafting for Charity were recently given to attendees at the 2024 Survive and Thrive Gynecologic Cancer Wellness Program at Northwestern Medicine. One attendee, Bonnie S., expressed her immense gratitude stating, "On those chilly nights when I watch TV and wear this shawl, I will feel like I am wrapping myself in love."

Crafting for Charity began meeting bi-monthly in July 2014 and contributes to numerous locations and charities. Items that have been donated include winter hats, shawls and pet mats. This year the group has contributed close to 1000 items.